

Regional Oversight Committee Meeting
12/7/2023
Draft Biennial Report



SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM



Role of Regional Oversight Committee

The overarching role of the ROC is to assess the Regional and Municipal Programs regarding whether, or the extent to which, the SCW Program Goals are being achieved.

Two primary means:

- 1) Review Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) and Regional/Municipal Program reports and provide recommendations/feedback to the Board and WASCs.
- 2) Prepare and submit the biennial SCW Program Progress Report (Report) to the Board.



Ordinance Chapter 18

The ROC shall biennially prepare a SCW Program Progress Report for the Board in accordance with the following procedures:

- The ROC shall prepare a draft SCW Program Progress Report, circulate the draft for public comment, and conduct a noticed public hearing to receive public comments on the draft;
- After the conclusion of the public hearing, the ROC shall revise the draft SCW Program Progress Report as it determines necessary or appropriate based on the public comments received; and
- The ROC shall submit the final SCW Program Progress Report to the Board and make the final Report available to the public.

"SCW Program Progress Report" means a biennial report that summarizes all Regional Program WARPP Reports, all Municipal Program annual progress and expenditure reports, and all District Program annual reports and makes findings regarding whether and the extent to which SCW Program requirements were met and SCW Program Goals were achieved.



Summary since last meeting

10/26 motion: “...an amended biennial report that incorporates the progress reports and recommendations related to goals and targets, in accordance with Member Blum's recommendations and additions of community benefits and workforce development, starting with the specific recommendations made by the water supply working group and acknowledging the ROC’s desire to prepare a second report following the completion of the Metrics and Monitoring Study.”



Summary since last meeting

Voluntary ROC Report Subgroup tasked with next Draft:

- Carl Blum
- Norma Camacho
- Belinda Faustinos
- Lauren Ahkiam

Process:

11/7 – new draft developed/shared

11/8 – subgroup meeting to discuss

11/12 – new draft developed/shared

11/13 – subgroup meeting to discuss

11/15 – new draft developed/shared

11/18 – subgroup consensus on draft readiness



Summary since last meeting

Key notes shaping revision of new draft:

- Not all DAC Benefit, NBS, and Community Engagement issues were explicitly cited in the motion to carry over into the new recommendation structure, but those items were not intended to drop out and were therefore incorporated.
- Proper inclusion and re-structuring of the findings and recommendations eliminates the need to plan for a second report
 - ROC has ability to submit recommendations even outside of the typical biennial report cycle.
 - ROC goal-setting effort along with regularly scheduled meetings and communications will facilitate the necessary ongoing consideration of
 - Priorities
 - applicable inputs such as the MMS.



Summary since last meeting

Noteworthy revisions compared to 10/26 discussion draft:

- Report restructured to move detailed information to appendices
- Report recommendations re-organized, with additional details fleshed out by the subgroup



Summary since last meeting

Noteworthy revisions to appendices

- Expanded with some additional detail (e.g., District Program expenditures)
- Updated Adaptive Management section to incorporate Water Supply Focus Group memo
- Modified to include “Project Highlights” featuring samples of approved projects



Report Outline

- Introduction
- Observations/Findings
- ROC Recommendations
- Appendices
 - SCWP Overview
 - Regional Program
 - Municipal Program
 - District Program
 - Adaptive Management
 - Project Highlights



Observations/Findings

1. The Program has successfully launched.
2. The Program needs to transform into a forward-looking pro-active program.
3. The Program should consider watershed-specific needs and capabilities in planning.
4. The Program needs precise metrics to better quantify program success and demonstrate progress towards established goals.
5. The Program needs strategies to improve inclusive community engagement.



Observations/Findings

6. The Program needs to streamline the project approval process.
7. The Program should revise the review and approval timelines to ensure adequate time for meaningful committee review.
8. The Program should prioritize the District Education programs.
9. The Program needs to improve transparency.
10. Results of approved/funded Scientific Studies are not currently being broadly disseminated.



Recommendations

1. Expedite watershed planning efforts, including consideration of previous and concurrent studies, working with Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASCs), regional agencies, and community groups related to watershed-specific priorities (to also help inform Municipal Program planning and tracking) by doing the following:



Recommendations

Expedite watershed planning efforts [...] by doing the following:

- a) Obtain additional dedicated resources to provide pro-active leadership and adaptive management of the SCWP and its numerous goals.
- b) Conduct a strategic goal setting process to be completed with the Director of Public Works



Recommendations

Expedite watershed planning efforts [...] by doing the following:

- c) Establish watershed specific goals, objectives, metrics, and timelines, that would allow project applicants to focus on projects that would meet goals and objectives of each watershed.
- d) Establish Water Quality quantitative goals and develop a plan with timelines to accomplish these goals. Ensuring that these goals and planning efforts are developed to build upon established regional water quality programs and projects (e.g. Municipal Separation Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit) and include characterization of upstream and downstream program interactions.



Recommendations

Expedite watershed planning efforts [...] by doing the following:

- e) Establish Community Investment Benefit quantitative goals, including the development of a plan with timelines to meet these goals.
- f) Set a region wide water supply target of 300,000 acre-ft of additional storm water capture by 2045. This acre-ft target deadline should be temporarily aligned with the 80% local water by 2045 target in LA County's OurCounty Sustainability Plan and draft LA County Water Plan.



Recommendations

Expedite watershed planning efforts [...] by doing the following:

- g) Clarify that claiming Water Supply Benefits requires an applicant to demonstrate that the storm water capture is “new” water and will be available for regional water supply.
- h) Develop guidelines/criteria to incentivize large infrastructure projects and investments.
- i) Develop guidelines/criteria to streamline applications for various sized projects and various stages of development.



Recommendations

Expedite watershed planning efforts [...] by doing the following:

- j) Create/strengthen collaborative planning and co-funding with other agencies/organizations to maximize benefits to LA County.
- k) Coordinate between the Regional and Municipal Programs to better meet established goals.



Recommendations

2. Establish Disadvantaged Community investment quantitative goals and develop a plan with timelines to meet these goals.
3. Make strategic investments in workforce development programs for skills related to SCWP programs and projects in the short and long term, and ensure workforce-related elements are reflected in procedures, guidelines, and reports as appropriate.
4. Revise Regional Program quarterly reporting to twice yearly in conjunction with Project Modification Reports



Recommendations

5. Revise the process and timeline for the ROC to evaluate whether Program Goals are being accomplished at the Program and watershed levels per the Ordinance, including bringing Storm Water Investment Plans (SIPs) to the ROC as they are approved by the WASC's to allow for a more timely review and deliberation, and developing a dashboard to assess Program-wide benefits (Regional, Municipal, and District) over time.
6. Evaluate recommendations that will result from the in-process Metrics and Monitoring Study and recommend changes, if and when appropriate, to the procedures, guidelines, and scoring criteria currently used to manage the various goals/programs of the SCWP.



Report Process Summary

- Ongoing public/stakeholder input at all ROC meetings to date
- Formal Report Input Meeting – June 15, 2023
- Data Review Meeting – August 31, 2023
- Initial Draft Discussed – October 26, 2023
 - ❖ ROC subgroup established; refined Draft Report
- **Revised Draft Discussed – December 7, 2023 ← TODAY'S FOCUS**
 - ❖ **Subgroup recommendation: Report ready for public review**
- *Public Comment period – December 2023/January 2024*
- *Revised/Final Draft(s) Discussed – January/February 2024*
- *Final Biennial Report submitted to Board – 1st Quarter 2024*